

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method for treating a subject whose liver has experienced a loss of functional liver cells, the method comprising administering to the subject cardiotrophin-1(CT-1) in an amount effective for stimulating DNA synthesis in hepatocytes of the subject or for proliferation or differentiation of hepatocytes hepatic regeneration in the subject.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject has undergone surgical hepatectomy.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A method for preventing damage to a liver in a subject in need of or subject to a hepatectomy or liver transplant comprising administration to the subject prior to the hepatectomy or transplant of an ~~effective~~ amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) effective to exert an antiapoptotic effect in hepatocytes of the subject.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers from a chronic liver disease.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The method according to claims 12 wherein the subject suffers from acute, subacute, fulminant or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers from hepatic cirrhosis.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The method according to claims 12, wherein the subject has undergone a liver transplant.

Claims 19 - 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a hepatectomy.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising partially resecting the liver of the subject after the administration of the CT-1.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a liver transplant.

Claim 31 (previously presented) A method for stimulating the proliferation of, or for the protection against apoptosis of, liver cells *in vitro*, said method comprising the step of treating the liver cells *in vitro* with cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the proliferation or protection.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The method according to claim 31 ~~32~~, wherein the

method is for stimulating the proliferation of liver cells and the liver cells are treated *in vitro* with the cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the proliferation.

Claim 33 (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the method is for the protection against apoptosis of liver cells and the liver cells are treated *in vitro* with cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the protection.

Claim 34 (new). The method according to claim 12, wherein the loss of functional liver cells is induced by a stimulus selected from the group consisting of a toxic agent, a virus, an autoimmune disorder, ischemia, ischemia/reperfusion and an inflammatory process.

Claim 35 (new). The method according to claim 34, wherein the loss of functional liver cells does not threaten the survival of the subject.

Claim 36 (new) The method according to claim 35, wherein the stimulus is a toxic agent, ischemia, ischemia/reperfusion or an inflammatory process.

Claim 37 (new). The method according to claim 35, wherein the stimulus comprises ischemia.

Claim 38 (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein the subject suffers from a liver disease marked by an increased level of transaminases.

Claim 39 (new) The method according to claim 38, wherein the liver disease is hepatitis.